

The New Medical Standards Program for the Eastern Great Basin Area (all refuges in Utah and the National Elk Refuge)

This new program is run completely by a national contractor and local clinics. Comprehensive Health Services, Inc. (CHS) is the national contractor and they are very experienced in this type of operation and are currently running other similar programs for other Federal Agencies. Reports from prototype areas indicate that CHS is very competent but there have been hickups dealing with local doctors/clinics who are not used to doing business with CHS. The hickups usually get fully resolved by the 2nd year of implementation.

All forms for this program must be obtained from the CHS website which is accessed by the Medical Standards program managers. Carol Schafer in Personnel and Dave Carter are the only managers in R6 at this time. We will be sending each firefighter the correct forms to complete and take to their physician.

All employees who participate in Wildland or Prescribed fire in an Arduous level position will be required to complete new physicals and/or forms. They will fit into one of the following 4 groups. Here's what to do for each:

- a) AD/EFF hires age 45+ request a physical appointment from Dave Carter (after 2/13/05) through their zone FMO (Bob Rebarchik, 406 329-4749). Dave will send them the necessary forms and after completion of a shortened physical they can take the pack test and then begin working.
- b) AD/EFF hires under 45 must first complete the Par-Q form. If they are approved to take the the pack test based on the Par-Q then they can go ahead and take the pack test and begin work and they DO NOT need to take a physical. If they are not approved to take the pack test based on the Par-Q then the zone FMO (Bob Rebarchik) must determine if they are still needed and he will contact Dave Carter (after 2/13/05) to schedule a physical appointment.
- c) New seasonal hires and new permanent hires - Carol Schafer in Personnel (303-236-4496) will schedule an appointment and send them all the forms. They must complete the physical and drug testing before they begin work or take the pack test.
- d) Existing employees and returning seasonals - contact Dave Carter (after 2/13/05) to schedule an appointment and obtain forms. They must complete the physical before taking the pack test.